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2 What is claimed is:

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4 1. A method, comprising:

5 storing network flow information for a first packet received from a first network portion
6 and storing network flow information for other packets received from other network portions
7 associated with the first network portion in one or more database records associated with the first
8 network portion;

9 querying the database for network flow information associated with the first network
10 portion; and

11 aggregating the network flow information associated with the first network portion in an
12 aggregate packet.

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14 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the aggregate packet on
15 the first network portion.

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17 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

18 receiving a plurality of packets from the first network portion with an average time
19 interval between packets equal to T ;

20 receiving the first packet; and

21 aggregating the network flow information associated with the first network portion in an
22 aggregate packet at a time T after the first packet is received.

23
24 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the first packet;
incrementing a counter based on receiving the first packet from the first network portion;
and
aggregating the network flow information associated with the first network portion in an
aggregate packet when the counter is at or above a threshold value.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
transmitting the aggregate packet on the first network portion; and
decrementing the counter based on transmitting the aggregate packet on the first network
portion.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the first network portion is a source virtual
circuit.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the first packet is a forward flow control packet
including flow information for the source virtual circuit and wherein the other packets associated
with the first network portion are backward flow control packets including flow information for a
plurality of destination virtual circuits associated with the source virtual circuit.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the first network portion includes a network
device that generates the first packet.

47 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the first network portion further includes at least
48 one of a switch and a router.

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50 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the other packets associated with the first
51 network portion include network flow information for the other network portions, the other
52 network portions associated with multicast packets based on the first packet.

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54 11. A network device, comprising:
55 circuitry to extract network flow information from a first packet received from a first
56 network portion and from other packets received from other network portions associated with the
57 first network portion, the circuitry further to create one or more database records associated with
58 the first network portion to store at least a portion of the network flow information, the circuitry
59 further to generate an aggregate packet including network flow information associated with the
60 first network portion retrieved from the database.

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62 12. The device of claim 11, wherein the circuitry further includes a counter, and
63 wherein the circuitry is to increment the counter in response to receiving the first packet.

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65 13. The device of claim 12, wherein the circuitry is further to transmit the aggregate
66 packet on the first network portion, and wherein the circuitry is further to decrement the counter
67 in response to at least one of generating the aggregate packet and transmitting the aggregate
68 packet.

70 14. The device of claim 11, wherein the circuitry is further to generate the aggregate
71 packet at a time T after receiving the first packet, wherein the time T is an average time between
72 receiving packets from the first network portion.

73
74 15. An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions operable to
75 cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising:
76 storing network flow information for a first packet received from a first network portion
77 and network flow information for other packets received from other network portions associated
78 with the first network portion in one or more database records associated with the first network
79 portion;
80 querying the database for network flow information associated with the first network
81 portion; and
82 aggregating the network flow information associated with the first network portion in an
83 aggregate packet.

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85 16. The article of claim 15, wherein the operations further comprise transmitting the
86 aggregate packet on the first network portion.

87
88 17. The article of claim 15, wherein the operations further comprise:
89 receiving a plurality of packets from the first network portion with an average time
90 interval between packets equal to T;
91 receiving the first packet; and

92 aggregating the network flow information associated with the first network portion in an
93 aggregate packet at a time T after the first packet is received.

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95 18. The article of claim 15, wherein the operations further comprise:
96 receiving the first packet;
97 incrementing a counter based on receiving the first packet from the first network portion;
98 and
99 aggregating the network flow information associated with the first network portion in an
100 aggregate packet when the counter is at or above a threshold value.

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102 19. The article of claim 18, wherein the operations further comprise:
103 transmitting the aggregate packet on the first network portion; and
104 decrementing the counter based on transmitting the aggregate packet on the first network
105 portion.

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107 20. The article of claim 15, wherein the first network portion is a source virtual
108 circuit.

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110 21. The article of claim 20, wherein the first packet is a forward flow control packet
111 including flow information for the source virtual circuit and wherein the other packets associated
112 with the first network portion are backward flow control packets including flow information for a
113 plurality of destination virtual circuits associated with the source virtual circuit.

22. The article of claim 15, wherein the first network portion includes a network device that generates the first packet.

23. The article of claim 22, wherein the first network portion further includes at least one of a switch and a router.

24. The article of claim 15, wherein the other packets associated with the first network portion include network flow information for the other network portions, the other network portions associated with multicast packets based on the first packet.